

06 June 2023 Tuesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**







  
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## DENR: PH daily trash now at 60K MT

From 16,000 metric tons in 2016, the solid waste generated by Filipinos daily went up by 275 percent to 60,000 MT this year, enough to fill up around 24 Olympic-size swimming pools, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Of this number, plastic waste accounted for 30 percent to 40 percent, prompting a call from Oceana for the government to ban single-use plastics. —STORY BY JANE BAUTISTA

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# Filipinos losing war against single-use plastics—DENR

By Jane Bautista  
@janebautistaINQ

The amount of solid waste generated daily by Filipinos went up by 275 percent to 60,000 metric tons this year—enough to fill up around 24 Olympic-size swimming pools—compared to 16,000 MT in 2016.

Of the 60,000 MT of solid waste, plastic accounted for 30 percent to 40 percent, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones told reporters on Monday, which was also World Environment Day.

Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, who led the celebration, lamented that the country was not winning the war against single-use plastics.

“There’s a social issue attached to it and if you cannot address the social issue, we will not be able to address the use of single-use plastics,” she said, calling on large-scale enterprises using plastic packaging to be responsible in looking for a sustainable replacement.

“It is not only the govern-



**DOVE SPOTTING** A zebra dove scavenges for food among piles of garbage in a creek in Taguig City where the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority led a cleanup last week. According to environment officials, the country generates up to 60,000 metric tons of solid waste daily. —RICHARD A. REYES

ment and certainly not the community that is [leaning] to use it. Those who generated it should take responsibility in terms of their role in [eradicating] that,” Loyzaga said.

Under the Extended Producer Responsibility Act which lapsed into law last year, big companies should implement policies on the proper management of plastic packaging waste. However, only 600 out of 4,000 firms have taken

steps to comply with the law.

To address the garbage problem, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is looking into prioritizing its programs for fast-moving consumer goods companies that are large generators of plastics.

It has also taken steps to ramp up the country’s waste management program with the National Solid Waste Management Commission’s approval of





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the 10-year solid waste management plans (SWMPs) submitted by 54 cities and municipalities.

The DENR's May 2023 data showed that 1,263 out of 1,592 local government units (LGUs), or 79 percent, have approved SWMPs—a requirement under Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

**Failure to implement**

But delays in the preparation and approval of the plans were hampering their implementation, the Commission on Audit (COA) said in a report in April.

It observed that as of 2021, the country had just 11,637 material recovery facilities servicing only 39 percent of 42,046 barangays and 245 operational sanitary landfills servicing just 29 percent of 1,634 LGUs.

State auditors further noted that instead of reducing solid waste generation, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 failed to “progressively achieve its goal.”

“More than 20 years after the

passage of RA 9003, [annual] solid waste generation in the country has steadily increased from 9.07 million MT in 2000 to 16.63 million MT in 2020,” the COA said. It projected that this could rise to 19.76 million MT in 2030 and 24.50 million MT in 2045.

The COA attributed the situation to the “frail” enforcement of and compliance with the law due to the political, financial and technical limitations of LGUs and implementing agencies.

For international advocacy organization Oceana, it was high time the government banned single-use plastics, citing recent studies that confirmed the presence of microplastics in the environment.

“Plastic is an escalating crisis for the environment, health and climate. If we don't act now to mitigate its impacts, when will the government move? Banning single-use plastics with the utmost sense of urgency is a must now more than ever,” said Oceana acting vice president Rose Liza Eisma-Osorio. —WITH A RE-

PORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



## PH not winning war vs plastic

**THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday admitted that the Philippines is not winning the war against single-use plastics.**

**"The single-use plastics issue is not a single dimension issue, it can have a social issue attachment and if we cannot address the social issue we will not be able to address the use of single-use plastics," DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said during the celebration of World Environment Day on Monday.**

**She cited certain sectors whose only option is to utilize single-use plastics.**

**"So there's a very huge social dimension that needs to be addressed," she said. "If we cannot replace single-use plastics we will not be able to actually address this problem."**

**Citing the United Nations report, the DENR said that over 400 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide every year, one third of which is used just once. Every day, the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic is dumped in oceans, rivers and lakes.**

**DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that the country generates 61,000 metric tons of solid waste daily of which 12 percent or 7,090 MT are plastics.**

**In January this year, Loyzaga signed the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 11898, or the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022." The law aims to address the mismanagement of plastic waste and maximize the material value of plastics.**

**JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL**



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## Legarda pins hope on plastics treaty

By MARIO CASAYURAN

The human environment is choking with plastic pollution.

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda emphasized this reality as she expressed hope for realizing the first global treaty to curb plastic pollution by the end of 2024.

Today, the Philippines joins the observance of World Environment Day with the theme “#beatplasticpollution.”

“With the negotiations rolling, we are hopefully months away from a global plastics treaty that will address the scourge of plastic pollution,” she said, referring to the ongoing talks by country delegations, non-government organizations, and industry representatives in Paris, France on a legally binding pact that aims to stop upsurge of plastic waste.

This year’s United Nations (UN) World Environment Day theme focuses on people’s actions and how they matter. What governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution directly results from local actions.

With this, Legarda renewed her call to comply with RA 9003 or the

Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and for the implementing agencies to take strategic actions to ensure compliance.

“It starts with us, and it starts with reduction. I can only keep calling the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local governments, and the public to stop making excuses. We have the template; all we need is the will,” said Legarda, the principal author of the law.

According to a 2022 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report, plastic waste is projected to almost triple by 2060, with around half ending up in landfill and less than a fifth recycled.

“The celebration of World Environment Day started in 1973 on the first day of the Stockholm Convention on the Human Environment. Today, 50 years later, the human environment is choking with plastic pollution,” Legarda lamented.

“When you refuse plastic bags or utensils, it may seem like a trivial matter, but it has pushed the envelope for policy,” she added in agreement with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee’s call.



# Aboitiz Group sees seaweed as option to plastic

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

The Aboitiz Group is working on the Reimagine Seaweed initiative, set to transform the seaweed industry of the Philippines as an alternative to single-use plastic as it joined the global efforts to fight plastic pollution.

The Group, which is undergoing its Great Transformation to become the Philippines' first Techglomerate, said in that it is also taking an innovative approach as it joined the #BeatPlasticPollution on World Environment Day 2023, today, June 5,

In a statement, the Aboitiz group cited the growing interest in using seaweed as an alternative to single-use plastic presents possibilities and opportunities.

The Reimagine Seaweed Initiative is holistically designed to create a sustainable and profitable seaweed industry that provides livelihoods to farmers, promotes biodiversity, reduces plastic pollution, and mitigates the effects of climate change.

For instance, City Sav-

ings Bank (CitySavings), the thrift bank subsidiary of the Aboitiz-led Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank), partnered with Envirotech Waste Recycling, Inc. (Envirotech) to upcycle plastic waste into classroom essentials: school chairs. In support of the Department of Education (DepEd) Matatag agenda to supplement basic education facilities and services, CitySavings donated 50 plastic chairs made of upcycled waste plastic to Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Sr. Central Elementary School in Davao City and Tunasan National High School in Muntinlupa City.

Furthermore, the construction arm of the Group, Aboitiz Construction, has been implementing its policy against single-use plastics across all projects and facilities since last year. The implementation resulted in a 14.60% reduction of plastic wastes from 2022 to 2023. Also, this initiative is anchored to the firm's compliance to ISO 14001: 2015 (Environmental Management System) and to its future plan of standardizing materials recovery facilities on all sites.





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## The waters of Fukushima

**T**HE Greek philosopher Thales theorized that life originated from water as every living being is dependent on water for life. While this may not hold water (pun intended), as even his student Anaximander later refuted him, one thing is certain — we all are still dependent on water and if there would be one last battle, it would be a fight for water.

Last year, Japanese authorities announced a plan to release about 1.3 million tons of water from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. This was after an assurance from the government that the water to be released would not pose a threat to human health or the marine environment, as it had already been treated to remove most radioactive materials.

However, protesters, including local fishing communities and countries in the region, say otherwise as the water will still contain tritium, a naturally occurring radioactive form of hydrogen that is technically difficult to separate from water, thus posing a risk to local fisherfolk — a double whammy after having suffered great devastation from the magnitude 9.0 earthquake which triggered a huge tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people on Japan's northeastern coast almost 12 years ago. The tsunami ended up crashing into Fukushima Daiichi, knocking out its backup electricity supply, triggering meltdowns in three of its reactors and sending large quantities of radiation into the atmosphere in the most serious nuclear accident since Chernobyl a quarter of a century earlier.

According to Japanese authorities, the wastewater in Fukushima is being stored in more than 1,000 tanks, which they say need to be removed so the plant can be decommissioned — a process expected to take from 30 to 40 years. Probably the reason why they want it released as soon as possible is to expedite the decommissioning.



**NAKED  
THOUGHT**

**CHARLIE V.  
MANALO**

Not only local fisherfolk have voiced their dissent but South Korea and China have joined the opposition as both countries raised "grave concerns" about the proposed release.

In fact, South Korea has yet to lift its ban on Fukushima seafood.

They are not alone.

Yesterday, as the world celebrated Environment Day, a group of local environmentalists here in the Philippines banded together and joined the calls to pressure Japan into forgoing its plan to release "contaminated waters" from Fukushima.

Calling themselves Bantay Nukleyar, the group, composed of professionals, students, sports enthusiasts, among others, announced that they plan to stage some kind of protest action in Palawan on Thursday, June 8, on the coastline of Busuanga in Palawan.

According to the group, they picked the Palawan coastline as the island is the country's last frontier.

And they could not have chosen a better place to voice their concern. A big "No!" to polluting our waters — be it in Japan or anywhere else.

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# Lifestyle switch needed to help preserve environment, says bishop

By CHRISTINA HERMOSO

Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay in Palawan Bishop Broderick Pabillo has called on the faithful to switch to a simpler lifestyle to help protect and preserve the environment.

A change in lifestyle, the bishop said, could help amid the continuous destruction of the environment, and the problems posed by climate change.

The country observes the month of June as Philippine Environment Month. The World Environment Day is marked every June 5.

"We all need to do our share in environmental protection. Our environment is in dire need of protection. Let us change our lifestyle to help preserve our environment," said Pabillo,

who is also chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)-Episcopal Commission on Stewardship, over Radio Veritas.

"Being responsible stewards of the environment is not a difficult task if we take it to heart. We all need to preserve the world we live in also for the future generation," the Church leader added.

The prelate said "a simpler lifestyle may be reflected in the food we eat, in limiting the use of plastic bags, and by encouraging others to do their share in protecting the environment".

"The little contribution that we will make will yield good results for the protection of the environment," the bishop stressed.





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## Villar renews vow to protect oceans, wetlands as valuable resources

**By Macon Ramos-Araneta**

TO celebrate May as the Month of the Ocean, Sen. Cynthia Villar renewed her commitment to protect oceans and wetlands and preserve their roles in nurturing life and supporting livelihoods.

During the On-the-Spot Poster-Making Contest initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP), Villar underscored the importance of "the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of our country's coastal and marine resources."

"It becomes all the more important given that the Philippines is an archipelago endowed with vast coastal and ocean resources, including critical habitats, mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, seascapes, and endangered and vulnerable marine flora and fauna, all of which provide both economic

and ecological benefits for the present and future generations," Villar said.

Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, said while it is important to meet the needs of the growing population and demand for food and resources, "we should do so without neglecting the health of our oceans, which are a rich source of diverse marine life that sustain millions of people."

"It is a sad reality that our oceans and wetlands are vulnerable. Habitat destruction and climate change have led to a decline in marine bounties and biodiversity. Wetlands, such as the LPPWP, a legislated protected area, are also under threat," Villar said, adding that the proposed reclamation projects near or within the vicinity of LPPWP would result in the destruction of the park's ecological functions, which are beneficial to Filipinos.



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# PH, Israel joining hands to protect environment

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Israel and the Philippines will share best practices on environmental protection and provide training for each others' experts and scientists as the two countries pursue another area of cooperation on their 65th year of diplomatic relations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eliyahu Cohen and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Sec- ▶ 4

# PH, Israel joining hands to protect environment 1◀

Secretary Enrique Manalo on Monday, June 5, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection,

which will allow Tel Aviv and Manila to address common challenges related to the environment as well as preserve the ecosystem, manage disaster risk,



**PHILIPPINE-VISITOR** – Israel Ambassador to Manila Ilan Fluss welcomes Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen (right) upon his arrival in Manila on Sunday, June 4, 2023, for a two-day official visit to boost bilateral ties between the Philippines and Israel.



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and promote and disseminate environmental technologies.

Cohen arrived in Manila on Sunday to mark the first-ever visit to the Philippines of an Israeli top diplomat in 56 years. His trip is aimed at boosting "the historically friendly relations" between the two countries, the Israeli Embassy in Manila said.

The agreement mandates the two countries to tackle water pollution, protect biodiversity, adapt to climate change, prepare their respective responses for environmental emergencies and promote environmental technologies.

Before the signing of the diplomatic notes, Cohen sat down with Manalo for a bilateral talk at the Manila Hotel, where they discussed priority areas of cooperation, which included defense and security, tourism, trade and investment, agriculture, science and technology, and people-to-people ties.

In his opening speech, Cohen said he was seeing a "bright future" for Israel-Philippine relations, which he was seeking to further expand.

Cohen sought for a direct flight between the two countries to make stronger relations possible, particularly in tourism and business.

The Israeli official also paid tribute to former president Manuel L. Quezon, who implemented an "Open-door" policy during World War II to save about a thousand Jews.

For his part, Manalo emphasized the importance of confidence-building with key partners, which include Israel, and expressed optimism to sustain positive momentum of the two countries' relations.

#### Israel expands embassy in Manila

Israel also announced on Monday the expansion of its embassy in the Philippines.

Cohen inaugurated the new offices of the embassy.

"We're thrilled to announce the expansion of our embassy, reflecting the growing and flourishing relations between Israel and the Philippines," the Embassy of Israel in Manila said.

Cohen's two-day visit will boost the historically friendly relations between Israel and the Philippines spanning about 65 years now.

Signing of various agreements, participation in meetings with the public and private sectors and boosting trade cooperation of the two nations are only among the other expected activities of the Israeli official.

Cohen was also scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Marcos and hold meetings with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, the embassy said.

An Israel business delegation will join Cohen in some of his activities to connect with Filipino business companies, the embassy said.

Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Ilan Flus said Cohen's visit "reassures that Israel is a friend and an ally of the Philippines."

"And we see the relations flourishing further in the years to come," he added.

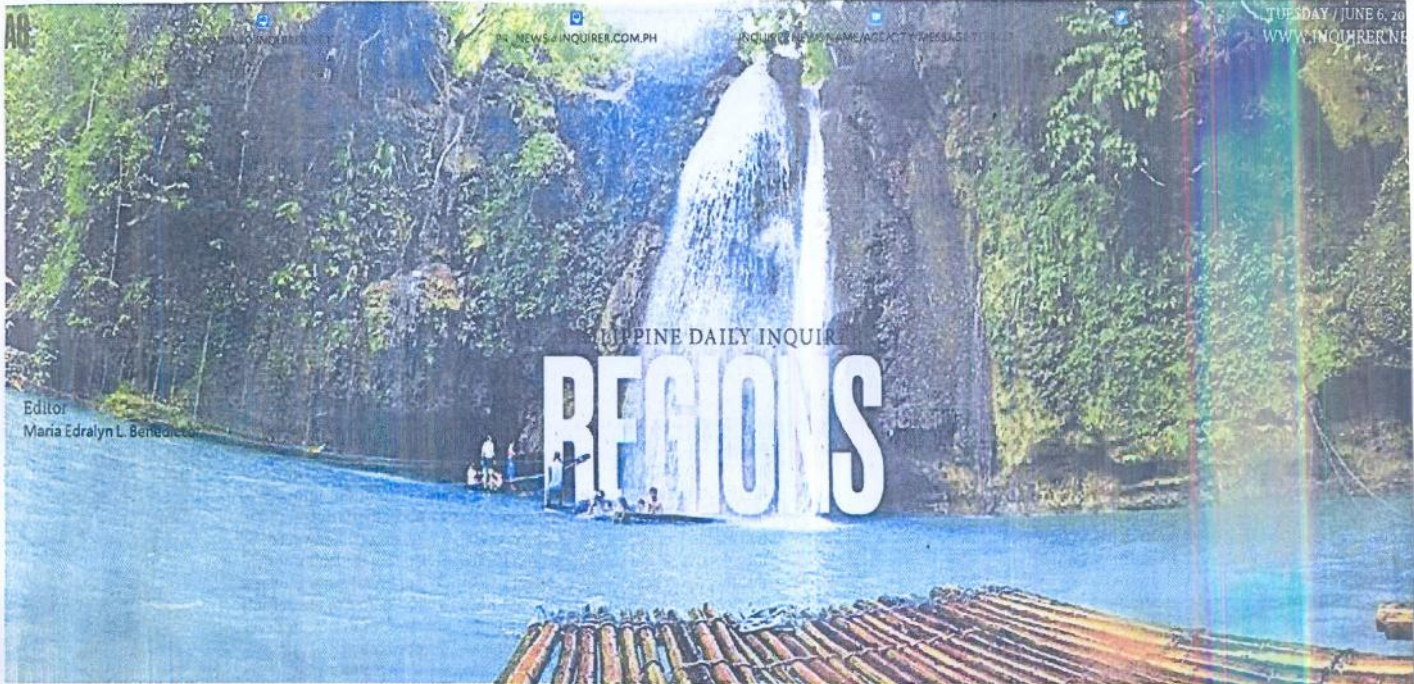




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OFF-LIMITS FOR NOW Tourists enjoy the Kawasan Falls in Badian, Cebu, as shown in this 2018 photo. Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia on Friday suspended activities, including swimming, at the falls due to dangerous debris in the tourist site's vicinity. —PHOTO FROM CEBU DAILY NEWS

DEBRIS, ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ALONG EASEMENT ZONE

# GOV SHUTS DOWN TOP TOURIST SITE IN SOUTH CEBU DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

By Dale Israel  
@dalegisrael

CEBU CITY—Canyoneering and swimming activities at the Kawasan Falls in Barangay Matutinao, Badian town, in southern Cebu province were halted starting on June 2 due to dangerous ruins in the area.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia issued Executive Order No. 14, also on June 2, to protect locals and tourists who visit the place to relax and enjoy. The suspension will be enforced until further notice.

“Any injury or mishap resulting from the gross neglect of the possible dangers that these illegal structures and dangerous ruins may cause to the public would definitely adversely affect the tourism industry of Cebu,” the governor’s EO read.

Badian, located 103.9 kilometers south of Cebu City, is known for its Kawasan Falls, one of the sites for canyoneering activities in the municipality that had drawn water sports enthusiasts from different parts of the country.

In an interview on Monday, Garcia said the provincial government would be taking over

the administration of Kawasan Falls, which flows through Matutinao River in Badian and managed by the local government.

“That is a disaster waiting to happen. And I don’t want a black mark on Cebu’s tourism, particularly Kawasan Falls which is recognized [as] one of the most beautiful falls in the world. So rather than allow that disaster to happen, we might as well take that preventive action,” she said.

### Hazardous, life-threatening

Garcia noted that the debris from structures destroyed by Typhoon “Odette” (international name: Rai) in December 2021 had not been cleared.

Garcia said there should also be a review of the rates since some of the tourists do not want to pay P1,500 each for the entire canyoneering activity.

“I hope that when we finally [re]open [Kawasan Falls], people will say wow, especially Cebuanos, they will be very proud to be Cebuanos because we have such a jewel in this island,” she said.

Last February, personnel from the Badian local government and the police conducted

a joint ocular inspection showing the presence of hazardous metallic spikes and illegal structures within the defined easement zones of the falls.

Further inspection done by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office at a dam of the well-visited canyoneering trails of the Kawasan Falls also revealed a “life-threatening” passage of water that needs to be repaired or removed.

The provincial government said these illegal structures and dangerous ruins were just disregarded for over a year now.

“There is a need to abate the discovered illegal structures and dangerous ruins within the defined easement zones of Kawasan Falls to ensure the safety of the public,” Garcia’s order stated.

“The provincial governor is also empowered to adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, marine, forest and other resources of the province, in coordination with the mayors of the component cities and municipalities,” it added.

Garcia directed the local police to strictly monitor the implementation of her order. **INQ**





**ON THE WATCH** — A man is dwarfed by the thick mangrove at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park where he had ventured to go fishing. The preservation of such mangroves is one of the focal points during the observation of World Environment Day on June 5, 2023. (Ali Vicoy)





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## DAR, DENR tie up seeks to improve land administration Cagayan Valley

**T**HE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are working together to improve efficiency in land administration and survey processes in the Cagayan Valley region.

Atty. Raul C. Lalan, DAR Assistant Regional Director for Operations, emphasized the importance of the collaborative effort after both agencies held a joint Inspection, Verification and Approval of Surveys (IVAS) for the purpose.

"By working together, we can enhance the efficiency of our processes and ensure that land survey activities are conducted meticulously. This will have a direct positive impact on our agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and contribute to the sustainable development of our nation," he said in a statement.

Gwendolyn Bambalan, DENR Regional Executive Director expressed her appreciation for DAR's commitment to improve the land administration system.

"The joint efforts of DAR and DENR demonstrate our shared dedication to uphold the integrity of land surveys. We are committed to ensure that the rights of individuals are protected and that land resources are managed properly," she said.

Both agencies expressed their commitment to continued cooperation, not only in the inspection, verification, and approval of surveys but also in broader initiatives aimed at advancing

land reform and sustainable land management practices.

The consultation meeting primarily aims to foster open communication and strengthen collaboration among the DAR and DENR officials and to streamline procedures and ensure the accuracy and reliability of land surveys.

The consultation also focused on the issues and challenges faced by both agencies on inspection, verification, and approval processes.

During the meeting, participants engaged in fruitful discussions, sharing of insights and experiences to identify areas for improvement in the survey process. They explored strategies to expedite the inspection and verification of surveys, while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and integrity.

The collaboration intends to come up with clearer guidelines and streamlined procedures to benefit both agencies and the communities they serve.

The DAR, as the government agency responsible for agrarian reform and the equitable distribution of agricultural lands, recognizes the critical role of accurate surveys in implementing land reform programs effectively.

Meanwhile, the DENR as a partner agency, oversees land management and environmental conservation, is instrumental in enhancing the overall land administration system and protecting the rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

**Jonathan L. Mayuga**



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# Environmental audit, a must more than ever



PICPA TALKS  
ROLAND CAFÉ PONDOC

**M**ost of us are familiar with the term audit. When this comes to mind, we associate it with proper management of money by institutions. Unbeknownst to some, auditing is not limited to money matters. There is such a thing as environmental audit. And with the worsening challenges affecting the environment, now more than ever, environmental audit must be given focus.

Commission on Audit, backed with internationally accepted standards obtained from its membership with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)-Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), has been involved for quite sometime now, in auditing the environment, utilizing several globally accepted processes and strategies.

## INTOSAI and WGEA Connect

To promote a better audit atmosphere in their respective countries, the INTOSAI, the professional organization of supreme audit institutions (SAI) in countries that belong to the United Nations or its specialized agencies was established. As members of the INTOSAI, there are exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience with other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of government auditing.

INTOSAI has three strategic goals: (1) Professional Standards; (2) Capacity Development; and (3) Knowledge Sharing, that has twelve working groups. Main focus of these working groups is to impart information on the different SAIs' efforts to support greater professionalism and continuous improvement of SAIs.

The INTOSAI-WGEA, formed in 1992 during the Rio Earth Summit on sustainable development, is one of these working groups. Its foremost aim is to use audit mandates and methods in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

INTOSAI-WGEA supports good governance by providing SAIs guidance and research on accountable, rule-based, and efficient governance. WGEA also highlights rising approaches related to participation and transparency, such as Citizen Participatory Audit approach or how to communicate audit results better.

## INTOSAI WGEA and Philippine SAI

Commission on Audit or SAI Philippines, became a member of the INTOSAI-WGEA in 2013. Being an active member of the working group, SAI Philippines hosted the 16th INTOSAI-WGEA in September 2014, a relevant event to the COA's project on environment concerns, particularly disaster risk reduction and management.

COA fully supports the govern-



environmental audit...

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ment in its campaign on disaster risk reduction through the proper utilization of funds, primarily on the allocation and use of disaster risk reduction fund. Testament to this is the audit that was conducted in the implementation of the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Program for Calendar Year 2012-2015 and the utilization of the 5% DRRM Fund for 2015 by the Tuguegarao City-Region II through its CPA program. Though there were several favorable observations, the audit yielded significant observations on incomplete project implementation, low utilization of disaster funds, incomplete documentation of disbursements, and weak distribution of relief goods, among others. Consequently, recommendations were given to the LGU to improve its implementation and address the problems.

Another example of auditing the environment is COA's Performance Audit on National Greening Program (NGP) where it was found that reforestation remains an urgent concern but fast-tracking its process without adequate preparation and support by and among stakeholders would lead to waste of resources. This audit aimed to determine the extent of impact of the program to the environment and beneficiaries and whether the program was administered in accordance with established policies and procedures. Unsurprisingly, COA discovered challenges in the program which were reported in the audit. On a positive note, the NGP beneficiaries were grateful as it augmented their household budget. Groups and communities were transformed into cooperatives, gaining access to credit finance, equipment and technical assistance from government agencies.

The NGP has adopted the geo-tagging technology that has the capability to show the public the status of the program through virtual visitation. By using geographical information programs like Google Earth, the public can virtually visit an NGP site in the country and monitor the progress from their own computers anytime of the day. Geo-tagging is applied not only for validation of NGP planting sites as to their existence and location but also for the evaluation of site conditions.

The Google Earth application allows its users to view historical images of an area. Using Google Earth to locate an NGP site, the team searched for satellite images of the area using geo-tagged pictures of the NGP site and was able to measure the area. By comparing the geo-tagged photos of the NGP site taken in year 1 and years after, the existence and progress of the NGP site could be monitored.

The environment's well-being remains one of the top concerns of each country. And with each passing day, there is always news about the worsening environment.

Among those on the table are the projects stipulated in the 2023-2025 WGEA Work Plan, such as the: (1) climate and biodiversity, (2) environmental accounting, (3) green fiscal policy tools, and (4) sustainability reporting, among others.

*(Roland Café Pondoc is a Commissioner of COA)*





GEORESERVE

# MARCOS URGED TO PROTECT MASUNGI VS DEFORESTATION

**By Jane Bautista**  
@janebautistaINQ

Leaders from different sectors on Monday urged President Marcos to save the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province by intervening in the continued deforestation of the conservation area.

In an open letter released on World Environment Day, the groups criticized the "orchestrated attempt to stop the Masungi Geopark Project," citing the Department of Environ-

ment and Natural Resources' (DENR) move to "discredit, undermine and altogether scrap" the initiative.

"We believe our laws must be applied liberally toward conservation and not toward destruction. We hope that a resolution will be made in a constructive way and not through strong-arming, faithful sustainable development partners," the group said.

The signatories to the open letter include Neric Acosta,

chairperson of the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development; Antonio Contreras, professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños School; and Lia Mai Torres, executive director of the Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines Inc.

"We condemn the attacks against Masungi's environment defenders in the form of disinformation, political and legal harassment and physical vio-

lence. These heroes deserve the nation's gratitude, not oppression," the letter read.

The group cited a news report, which said that the DENR was considering canceling the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the government and the foundation.

### 2017 MOA

But according to Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga, the DENR has "not spoken about a cancellation of the con-

tract," as they are currently reviewing the document to take the proper action.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI) said the 2017 MOA between their organization and the DENR should be read as an agreement for a "perpetual land trust for conservation" and not as a perpetual license.

In its position paper submitted to the House committee on natural resources chair and Rep. Elpidio Barzaga on April

11, MGFI said the MOA "should be read in its entirety" and not reduced to a single phrase of "perpetual land trust."

"Otherwise, the 2017 MOA will not only disregard the premium given to the intent of the contracting parties or ignore the most basic rules on interpretation of contracts, but will also diminish the express constitutional provisions in relation to environmental protection and conservation," the foundation said in the document. INQ





## El Niño likely to hit this month

THE El Niño phenomenon may occur late this month or in July but some areas in the country, particularly Luzon, may experience above normal rainfall conditions, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Monday.

The weather bureau expects 10 to 15 tropical cyclones to enter or form within the Philippine Area of Responsibility from June to October this year.

Weather specialist Benison Estareja said the onset of the wet season does not mean that it would be raining all the time.

"We have this what we call monsoon breaks wherein we can experience cloudy but hot weather due to the absence of the southwest monsoon," Estareja said.

He said that despite the onset of El Niño, which leads to dry spells and droughts, some areas may also have above normal rainfall.

"In fact during the third quarter of the year, it is possible that the country will experience strong typhoons and heavy rainfall and only on the last months of the year and first quarter of 2024 that we may experience less rainfall," the Pagasa forecaster said.

El Niño is a weather condition characterized by unusually warmer than average sea surface temperatures at the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

Citing Pagasa's monitoring track, Estareja said some of the tropical cyclones may make landfall in Luzon and Visayas while others may enhance the southwest monsoon, specifically in the western part of the country.

**ARLIE O. CALALO**





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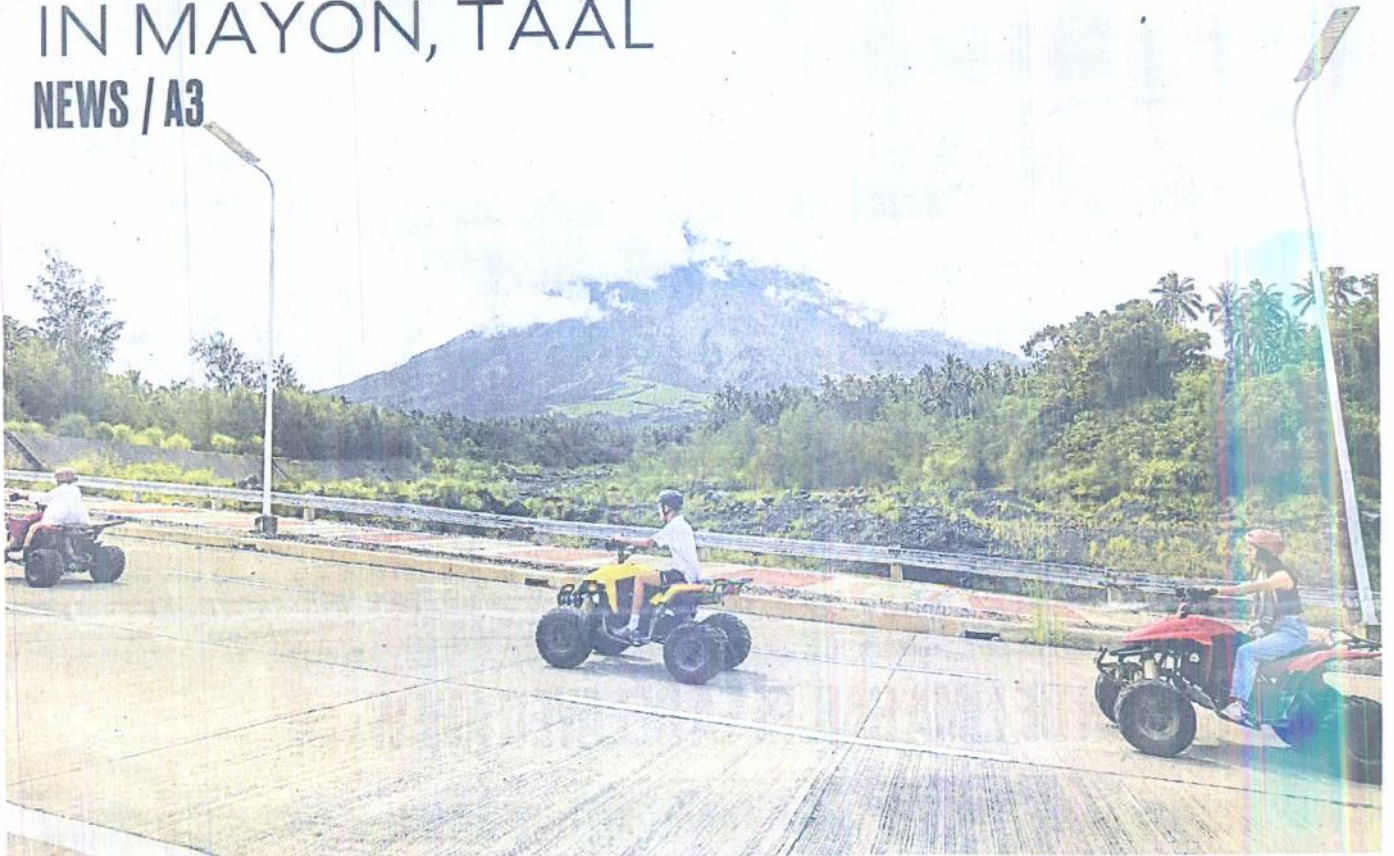
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# 'INCREASING UNREST' IN MAYON, TAAL

NEWS / A3



**ADVENTURE RIDE** The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology places Mayon Volcano under alert level 2 after its monitoring of the summit crater shows an increased rockfall. On Monday, several tourists are seen still enjoying all-terrain vehicle rides in Daraga, Albay, as clouds obscure the view of Mayon. —MARK ALVIC ESPLANA





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ALBAY VOLCANO PLACED UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2

# 'INCREASING UNREST' IN MAYON, TAAI; RESIDENTS RELOCATED

By Abby Boiser,  
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.  
and Ma. April Mier-Manjares  
@Team\_Inquirer

LEGAZPI CITY—Farmers near Mayon Volcano in Albay province and residents around Taal Volcano in Batangas province were advised to keep out of the danger zones of these two active volcanoes following their “increasing unrest” since Sunday.

In a bulletin on Monday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) raised the warning signal over Mayon to alert level 2, indicating the possibility of phreatic, or steam-driven, eruptions or hazardous magmatic eruptions.

Mayon’s rockfall events also rose from a daily average of five in April to 49 since Sunday morning, Phivolcs said. The agency’s seismic monitoring group, the Mayon Volcano Network (MVN), has so far recorded a total of 318 rockfall events.

Paul Karson Alanis, resident volcanologist of the Mayon Volcano Observatory Sta-

tion at Lignón Hill here, said rockfall events were caused by the collapse of the lava dome. But he said there was so far no indication yet of rising magma.

“If there is magma pushing from deep inside the volcano, there should be more earthquakes that could break rocks. But now, despite the limited number of earthquakes recorded, the lava dome is still growing,” Alanis said in a phone interview.

MVN has recorded 26 volcanic earthquakes since April.

Phivolcs urged residents near Mayon to be vigilant and refrain from entering its 6-kilometer radius, the designated permanent danger zone, to minimize risks from sudden explosions, rockfalls and landslides.

### Farmers returning

“In case of ashfall events that may affect communities downwind of Mayon’s crater, people should cover their nose and mouth with a damp, clean cloth or dust mask,” the agency said.

Nonito Alemania, village chief of Mi-isi in Daraga town, said his barangay would coor-



‘DEGASSING’ Footage taken from Taal Volcano Observatory catches the degassing activity from the main crater on June 4. —SCREENGAB FROM PHIVOLCS FACEBOOK PAGE

minate with other agencies to provide for the needs of farmers who had been prohibited, for now, from tilling on the volcano’s slopes.

Despite that restriction, at least 60 farmers were still returning to their farmlands from time to time.

“If the local government strictly prohibits them, they will surely abide. But the problem is that their main livelihood is farming,” Alemania said.

He said other residents from the danger zone had been relocated to Salvacion, another village.

Alemania and other local officials continue to monitor Mayon’s activity as well as the relocation of residents near the danger zone.

### Plumes

Meanwhile, Phivolcs reported “voluminous steam-rich plumes [rising] to 3,000 meters above Taal Volcano Island,” as of its update on Monday morning.

Sulfur dioxide emissions have reached a daily average of around 5,831 tons since last week, said the agency, which nevertheless maintained the alert level 1 category for Taal.

Residents in towns surrounding Taal Lake were advised to continue monitoring updates on Taal’s activity.

The volcano’s island, or “pulo,” to locals who used to lived there, has remained largely deserted after it was declared a permanent danger zone following the January 2020 eruption.

At least 800 families who used to live off farming, fishing and tourism on the island had since been resettled to a relocation center in Talisay town. INQ



# Pagasa monitoring 2 weather systems outside PAR

By BELLA CARIASO

The state weather bureau is monitoring cloud clusters and a low-pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Ad-

ministration (PAGASA) weather specialist Obet Badrina yesterday said the LPA was spotted in the west.

"At present, there is still a small possibility that it will enter the country, but we will continue to monitor it," Badrina said.

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## Pagasa

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"We expect this [the cloud clusters] to develop into a low-pressure area and may enter PAR. It is possible that today or tomorrow, it will enter PAR," he said.

Rains are expected in the western section of Luzon and the Visayas, in Palawan and the Kalayaan Group of Islands due to the southwest monsoon.

PAGASA expects at least 10 to 14 typhoons until October 2023.

Meanwhile, a 33-year-old housewife died late afternoon on Sunday after lightning struck her in the municipality of Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

Regional police reported that Myrna Soriano from Barangay Tococ-Barikir was found lifeless by her brother under a mango tree as she took shelter during a heavy downpour.

In a separate incident, a 47-year-old man drowned while swimming with relatives in Bolinao, also in Pangasinan.

Christopher Medrano passed away last Sunday after swimming to the breakwater.

Cesar Ramirez





# Cloud seeding eyed to raise Angat water level

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – As the water elevation of Angat Dam continues to slowly decrease despite the onset of the wet season, the government is eyeing rain-seeding operations among possible mitigation measures.

Sevillo David Jr., National Water Resources Board executive director, confirmed in a text message to **The STAR** that the idea is among those being considered to solve the problem.

Records from the Bulacan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Office showed the water elevation of Angat Dam as of 8 a.m. yesterday was at 188.65 meters, or 8.65 meters above its minimum operating level but 23.35 meters below its normal high water level.

David said that if the need arises, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) would discuss with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management the rain-seeding operations schedules.

Angat Dam supplies more than

90 percent of the raw water requirements for Metro Manila residents, contributes hydropower generation to the Luzon grid and provides irrigation water to rice lands in Bulacan and Pampanga provinces.

Earlier, David said the NWRB had approved Angat Dam's water allocation to MWSS from June 1-15 at 52 cubic meters per second (CMS).

However, this will be cut down to 50 CMS from June 16-30 as the National Irrigation Administration will be given a water allocation of 40 CMS as maximum allocation and "can be modified based on actual irrigation requirement

considering local flows."

Meanwhile, the National El Niño Team met in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday to discuss the development of the national action plan for the weather phenomenon and report on the actions taken by different agencies to prepare for its projected adverse impacts on food, health, water, energy security and public safety.

"Public education on this climate phenomenon and its impact is essential to ensure that they support all efforts such as water conservation and other remedies. Again, the whole-of-nation approach remains key to the

effectiveness of our preparations and interventions," said Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, Office of Civil Defense deputy administrator for operations.

"We encourage our people to join the national effort to prepare for the challenges of the El Niño phenomenon. Your cooperation, at the household level, will ensure that our preparations will be holistic and encompassing," he added.

The government agencies continue to lay down plans to mitigate the possible negative impacts of El Niño in the country.

- With Michael Punongbayan





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Republic of the Philippines  
**ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Pasig City

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE AVAILMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE/SHARE FROM THE UNIVERSAL CHARGE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AREAS (PLAN 19)**

ERC CASE NO. 2023-023 RC

**NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,**  
Petitioner.

Promulgated:  
April 26, 2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC/VIRTUAL HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on 23 March 2023, National Power Corporation (NPC) filed a *Petition* dated 08 March 2023, seeking the Commission's approval for the availment of the Environmental Charge/share from the Universal Charge (UC-EC) for the rehabilitation and management of watershed areas (Plan 19).

The pertinent allegations of the *Petition* are hereunder quoted as follows:

- NPC is a government owned-and-controlled corporation created and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 6935, as amended (NPC Charter), with principal office address at NPC Office Building Complex, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, where it may be served with notices and other processes of this Honorable Commission;
- Under the NPC Charter, particularly Section 3, paragraph (N), NPC is vested with the power to exercise complete jurisdiction and control over watersheds surrounding the reservoir of plants and/or projects it constructed;
- To further strengthen NPC's jurisdiction and control over watersheds, Executive Order (EO) No. 224 was issued on 16 July 1987, wherein NPC was granted complete jurisdiction, control and rehabilitation function over the following watershed areas and reservations: (a) Upper Agno Watershed Reservation as covered by Proclamation No. 546; (b) Angat Watershed Reservation as covered by Proclamation Nos. 505 and 599; (c) Caliraya-Lumot Watershed Reservation as covered by Proclamation No. 573; (d) Makiling-Banahaw Geothermal Reservations as covered by Proclamation No. 1111; (e) Buhl-Barit Watershed as covered by Proclamation No. 573; (f) Tiwi Geothermal Reservation as covered by Presidential Proclamation No. 739;
- Accordingly, NPC became responsible for the management, protection, development, and rehabilitation of the aforementioned watershed areas, including but not limited to the following: (a) Enforcement of forestry laws, rules and regulations governing the Integrated Management of Watershed Reservation under Ministry Order No. 83-01-13, Series of 1982; (b) Identification of areas which required immediate rehabilitation and development; (c) Preparation of plans and programs using the integrated multiple use concept of Watershed Management for the maximum utilization of Watershed resources; (d) Formulation and/or implementation of measures to prevent denudation of forest cover and siltation of existing reservoirs; (e) Public education and information drive to create awareness among the populace about the importance of forest resources and watershed areas; (f) Promotion of the development and conservation of existing vegetative cover; (g) Formulation of plans and development programs for resettlement and relocation; (h) Coordination with government agencies/instrumentalities, academic institutions, Local Government Units (LGUs), Indigenous Peoples (IPs)/Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), as well as religious and civil groups in undertaking forest conservation and rehabilitation measures in watershed areas; (i) Afforestation, reforestation and implementations of physical rehabilitation measures in critically denuded watershed areas; (j) Development, maintenance and management of free farms within adequately vegetative watershed for the production of transmission line poles;
- NPC's jurisdiction and control over watersheds was again recognized and reiterated in Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" (EPIRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), particularly Section 6 (c), Rule 23 of the IRR, by mandating NPC to continue being responsible for watershed rehabilitation and management;
- Under the EPIRA, NPC is entitled to the Environmental Charge (EC) equivalent to one-fourth of one centavo per kilowatt-hour sales (P 0.0025/kWh), which forms part of the Universal Charge (UC). This environmental fund is intended solely for watershed rehabilitation and management and is being managed by NPC under existing arrangements. In order to avail said EC, NPC is required to file with this Honorable Commission a petition for the availment of the UC-EC in relation to the proposed watershed rehabilitation and management projects on or before March 15 of every year;
- In support of this petition, NPC hereby submits its proposed operations plan for Calendar Year 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "Plan 19") for the availment of the UC-EC for the rehabilitation and management of the watersheds. (Attached as Annex "A" is the Executive Summary of Plan 19 which forms an integral part hereof);
- Plan 19 was crafted in order to strengthen and intensify NPC's

undertakings to address the issue of uncontrolled deforestation, especially in watershed areas. NPC continues to embark on non-stop greening initiatives in various watershed areas that gained acceptance and encouraged cooperation from stakeholders. In line with the Greening Program of the National Government, NPC's Watershed Management Department (WMD) and its Watershed Area Teams (WATs) are committed to reforest idle/open and denuded areas and promote the use of indigenous species (Rainforestation) in its greening projects.

- Plan 19 is composed of programs and projects specified in Section 1, Article II of the Rules and Procedures Governing the Utilization and Disbursement of UC-EC (Rules), with the proposed modes of procurement, namely: (1) Watershed Protection and Law Enforcement; (2) Watershed Rehabilitation; (3) Watershed Resource Development; (4) Infrastructure; (5) Administrative and Project Operations and/or Supervision; (6) Equipment Acquisition; (7) Sustainability and Third-Party Evaluation; (8) Training and Livelihood Projects; and (9) Research Development. These programs and projects, which were recommended by the concerned WAT, were reviewed and evaluated by the Head Office-WMD. (Attached as Annexes "C" to "M", which form an integral part hereof, are the proposed plans of the WATs assigned in Angat, Buhl-Barit, Caliraya-Lumot, Lake-Lanao Agus River, Mak-Ban, Pulangi, Magat, Pantabangan-Carranglan, San Roque, Tiwi, Upper Agno and the WMD-Head Office);
- Plan 19 covers the six (6) watershed areas and reservations over which NPC has complete jurisdiction and control by virtue of EO 224; San Roque Watershed (Lower Agno) which is managed by NPC for San Roque Multi-Purpose Project by virtue of PD 2320; Lake Lanao-Agus River and Pulangi Watershed Area which are covered by a Memorandum of Agreement between NPC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- Plan 19, which was crafted with reference to the previous proposed plans submitted to this Honorable Commission, also forms part of, and is premised on the NP Board approved Integrated Watershed Master Plan for the Eleven (11) watershed areas managed by NPC;
- Aside from maintaining the objectives of the previous proposed plans, Plan 19 seeks to: (a) attain the rehabilitation, through vegetative measures, of 695 hectares of open and denuded areas; (b) contribute to climate change mitigation through the sequestration of carbon equivalent to 3,472 tons/year (Lasco, R.D. and Pulhin, F.B., 2003); (c) reduce sedimentation and soil erosion inside NPC's reforestation areas of at least 644.80 tons/year (Sapalco, S.R., 1981); (d) increase biodiversity in terms of species richness and flora and fauna population through conservation and ecotourism programs; and (e) strengthen and sustain the protection and conservation of the watershed areas through community participation.
- Plan 19 complies with ERC Case Res. Nos. 18 Series of 2011, which requires it to conduct consultation with the Local Government Units (LGU) and LGAs where projects will be situated. Reference was made to the environmental projects of the LGUs and LGAs to avoid duplication in funding. Concerns of stakeholders were brought to the attention of concerned WAT personnel and served as guides in packaging Plan 19. This helped ensure support from the LGUs and the local communities;
- In order to attain the objectives of Plan 19, NPC needs to avail and utilize the funds from the UC-EC amounting to THREE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE PESOS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTAVOS (Php352,649,679.67), as shown in the Consolidated Financial Summary attached as Annex "B", which forms an integral part hereof. This amount was computed based on existing rules and regulations prescribed for government projects;
- In compliance with Section 2 (b), Article II of the Rules, NPC furnished a copy of this petition to the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the Office of the City Mayor of Quezon City, where NPC principally operates, and published it in a newspaper of general Circulation. (Attached as Annexes "N" and "O", which form an integral part hereof, are proofs of service and publication of this petition).

WHEREFORE, premises considered, NPC prays that this petition be APPROVED by this Honorable Commission.

OTHER RELIEFS and REMEDIES, which in law or equity may be deemed just and equitable under the premises, are likewise prayed for.

The Commission sets the instant *Petition* for determination of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements, expository presentation, Pre-Trial Conference, and presentation of evidence on the following dates and online platforms for the conduct thereof, pursuant to Resolution No. 09, Series of 2020<sup>1</sup> and Resolution No. 01, Series of 2021<sup>2</sup> (ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure):

Date	Platform	Activity
13 July 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)	Energy Regulatory Commission Hearing Room, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Equadra Tower, 1 Jade Drive, Ortigas Center, Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City	Determination of compliance with jurisdictional requirements and Expository Presentation for Luzon Stakeholders
20 July 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)	Energy Regulatory Commission, Visayas Area Operations Division (VAOD), 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Kepwealth Building, Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park	Expository Presentation for Visayas Stakeholders

27 July 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)	Energy Regulatory Commission, Mindanao Area Operations Division (MAOD), 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, BIZ Bldg., c/o BORMAHECO, Inc., 209 J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City	Expository Presentation for Mindanao Stakeholders
03 August 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)		Pre-trial Conference and Presentation of Evidence
10 August 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)	Microsoft Teams or Zoom Applications	Presentation of Evidence
17 August 2023 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M)		Presentation of Evidence

Applicant NPC is directed to attend the said hearings at the designated venues.

Any interested stakeholder may submit its comments and/or clarifications at least one (1) calendar day prior to the scheduled initial hearing, via electronic mail (e-mail) at [docket@erc.ph](mailto:docket@erc.ph), and copy furnish the Legal Service through [legal@erc.ph](mailto:legal@erc.ph). The Commission shall give priority to the stakeholders who have duly submitted their respective comments and/or clarifications, to discuss the same and propound questions during the course of the expository presentation.

Moreover, any persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the instant case may become a party by filing with the Commission via e-mail at [docket@erc.ph](mailto:docket@erc.ph), and copy furnish the Legal Service through [legal@erc.ph](mailto:legal@erc.ph), a verified *Petition* to Intervene at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the initial hearing. The verified *Petition* to Intervene must follow the requirements under Rule 9 of the ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure, indicate therein the docket number and title of the case, and state the following:

- The petitioner's name, mailing address, and e-mail address;
- The nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- A statement of the relief desired.

Likewise, all other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the case may file through e-mail at [docket@erc.ph](mailto:docket@erc.ph), and copy furnish the Legal Service through [legal@erc.ph](mailto:legal@erc.ph), their Opposition or Comment thereon at least five (5) calendar days prior to the initial hearing. Rule 9 of the ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure shall govern. No particular form of Opposition or Comment is required, but the document, letter, or writing should contain the following:

- The name, mailing address, and e-mail address of such person;
- A concise statement of the Opposition or Comment; and
- The grounds relied upon.

All interested parties filing their *Petition* to Intervene, Opposition or Comment are required to submit the hard copies thereof through personal service, registered mail or ordinary mail/private courier, within five (5) working days from the date that the same were electronically submitted, as reflected in the acknowledgment receipt e-mail sent by the Commission.

Any of the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraphs may access the copy of the *Petition* on the Commission's official website at [www.erc.gov.ph](http://www.erc.gov.ph).

Finally, all interested persons may be allowed to join the scheduled virtual hearings by providing the Commission, thru [legal.virtualhearings@erc.ph](mailto:legal.virtualhearings@erc.ph), their respective e-mail addresses and indicating therein the case number of the *Instant Petition*. The Commission will send the access link/s to the aforementioned hearing platform within five (5) working days prior to the scheduled hearings.

WITNESS, the Honorable Commissioners ALEXIS M. LUMBATAN, CATHERINE P. MACEDA, FLORESINDA G. BALDO-DIGAL, and MARKO ROMEO L. FUENTES, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023 in Pasig City.

*Monalisa C. Dimalanta*  
MONALISA C. DIMALANTA  
Chairperson and CEO



Issued by  
LS: VM/LSR/MCOO

<sup>1</sup> A Resolution Adopting the Guidelines Governing Electronic Applications, Filings and Virtual Hearings Before the Energy Regulatory Commission.  
<sup>2</sup> A Resolution Adopting the Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Energy Regulatory Commission.





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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118  
Tel.Nos. (632) 8539 4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [recordsco@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsco@emb.gov.ph)



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the proposed Manila Metro Rail Transit Line 4 (MRT 4) Project of Department of Transportation (DoTr) located in Cities of Mandaluyong, Quezon and Pasig, Metro Manila and Municipalities of Cainta and Taytay, Rizal.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Manila Metro Rail Transit Line 4 (MRT 4) Project to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Participants
14 June 2023 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30)	Covered Area/Parking in front of Brgy. Ugong Barangay Hall, Pasig City	Residents of Metro Manila
15 June 2023 (Thursday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30)	Ynares Covered Court at the back of Brgy. San Juan Barangay Hall, Taytay, Rizal	Residents of Rizal

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Manila Metro Rail Transit Line 4 (MRT 4) Project
Project Location	Cities of Mandaluyong, Quezon and Pasig, Metro Manila and Municipalities of Cainta and Taytay, Rizal
Project Type / Length	Railway Project / 12.70 kilometers
Project Rationale	MRT 4 aims to reduce traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting transport volumes from road to rail, reduce travel times, enhance connectivity to the existing railway systems and improve accessibility within the area, thereby increasing the level of productivity of the people and affected businesses.
Project Components	Viaduct Total Length: 12.70 km Stations Total Number: 10 Depot Total Area: 11.5 ha
Proponent	Department of Transportation (DoTr)

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/ participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email or [eia@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eia@emb.gov.ph), at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public is downloadable at our website: [www.eia.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eia.emb.gov.ph) (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found on our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

<b>EMB NCR</b> National Ecology Center, East Avenue Quezon City	<b>Quezon City</b> Quezon City Hall, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	<b>Pasig City</b> Caruncho Ave, Barangay San Nicolas, Pasig	<b>Mandaluyong City</b> 315 Maysilo Cir, Mandaluyong
<b>EMB Calabarzon</b> Region 4A (CALABARZON) 6 <sup>th</sup> Flr. DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila		<b>Municipality of Cainta</b> 73 A. Bonifacio, Sto. Domingo, Cainta.	<b>Municipality of Taytay</b> Don Hilario Cruz, Taytay

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler Engr. Joel Polintan ([joel\\_polintan@emb.gov.ph](mailto:joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph)) and Engr. Aura Revilla ([aura\\_revilla@emb.gov.ph](mailto:aura_revilla@emb.gov.ph)) of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Division (EIAMD).

*Signature*

Protect the environment... Protect life...